GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:422
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
FIRE IN FTII AND NFAI, PUNE
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a): whether in a recent fire in the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) andNational Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune, rare film prints and rare documentaries were completely destroyed;

(b): if so, the details of the loss and reasons which caused the fire;

(c): whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government into the fire incident in FTII and NFAI, Pune;

(d): if so, the result thereof;

(e): whether there are any copies of these films stored elsewhere;

(f): if so, the details thereof; and

(g): the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the deficiencies in the preservation of the rare films prints, pre-independence era films and other important rare documentaries by the FTII and NFAI?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (f): National Film Archive of India (NFAI) has informed that 607 films (5095reels) in the custody of NFAI and stored in nitrate base were destroyed in the fire on 08.01.2003. NFAI has further reported that most of the films destroyed in fire werecopied on to the safety base and are safely preserved in NFAI and only 544 reels couldnot be transferred to the safety base. A high level inquiry has been ordered into the incident to pin-point inter-alia the exact cause of the fire, if possible; assess the safety systems being followed and preventive measures for the future.

(g): NFAI has intimated that all archival material in the custody of NFAI is stored onsafety (acetate) base in their vaults where temperature and humidity are controlled. The films kept in the vaults are subjected to periodic checking to monitor their condition and modern preservation techniques are applied to prevent deterioration in the quality of the prints.